

606924 MT Kerosene whereas West Bengal has been allocated 757987 MT kerosene. Through you, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister the criterian for allocation of kerosene. Whether the criteria is based on the population or the area or poverty of the state. If poverty is the criteria for allocation of kerosene, Bihar is far poorer than West Bengal. If population is the criteria, the population of Bihar far exceeds the population of West Bengal. I would like to know the reasons for lesses supply of Kerosene to Bihar. At the same time I would also like to inform Hon'ble Minister that there is a subsidy of more than rupees five per litre on kerosene even than kerosene is easily available in black-market. If you say that there is 100% control on kerosene then how is it available in black market. Whether the government is somehow involved therein or whether the government has failed to check it or whether the State Governments are not co-operating with the Union Government in this regard ? Would the Hon'ble Minister kindly provide full information to the House in this regard ?

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, the Deve Gowda Government is not handling it over to thieves. We are all duty-conscious. We are perfect in serving the nation. By the by, as far as the hon. Member's question is concerned, previously, in 1996-97 the *per capita* allocation was 7.5 kg. per annum. Now it has been increased to 7.86 kg. *per capita* per annum. . . .(Interruptions). In 1997-98 the allotment will be 6,79,329 MT. The monthly allocation will be . . .(Interruptions).

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Sir, the Minister concerned should give us information regarding the guidelines/criteria for sanction of kerosene supply to different States. . . .(Interruptions).

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, I have already informed the House. . . .(Interruptions).

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Sir, the hon. Minister has already stated that population is the criteria. if so, the population of Bihar is higher than that of West Bengal but the kerosene supply is less. The hon. Minister may explain the position. . . .(Interruptions).

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, I have already informed the House that the criteria being followed is 'population'. We are taking into account the population and allocating it. . . .(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : Bhavanaji, you can put the question.

(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : There is a shortage of kerosene oil throughout the country . . .(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : I do realise that it is an important subject relating to rural areas. I am agreeable to admit it for Half-an-Hour discussion.

Foreign owned Nuclear Plant

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*163. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :
SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister has stated in an interview to a Japanese Newspaper Nihon Keizai Shimbun that India would permit full foreign owned nuclear plant;

(b) whether the Government have invited foreign investors to build up Nuclear Plants under a scheme providing 100 percent ownership of such likely foreign investors;

(c) whether Government have also worked out modalities for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether such a step of the Government is likely to affect the safety and secrecy of the existing Nuclear Power Plants; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (d) Prime Minister had stated that Government had agreed to 100% foreign equity in the power sector in general terms and not specifically in the nuclear power sector. While Government of India have not invited any offers in the nuclear power sector, it is open to specific offers and will decide its response on a case-by-case basis. Any offer of technical cooperation in the nuclear power sector would have to be considered on the basis of its technical suitability, economic attractiveness and the conditions attached thereto.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does Not arise.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Sir, this question relates to sanctity and security of our country. May I know from the hon. Minister whether our country lacks technological efficiency, to support the build-up or to manage the nuclear power plants ? I would also like to know what are the on-going nuclear power plants built up so far, with or without foreign technology and assistance.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : There can be no question of compromising the security of the country in the matter of priority that is given to the nuclear power sector. Any investment by anybody will be done within the laws of the country relating to nuclear safety, environmental conditions as well as our policies on safeguards.

As far as the existing projects are concerned, we expect that the on-going projects have been provided for in the Annual Plan. This was reviewed yesterday evening by the Parliamentary Consultative Committee on Planning, Programme Implementation and Science and Technology. For Tarapur plant, the Committee has desired that we need more funds and for the fast breeder reactor, they have noted that the Annual Plan does provide for the funds this year. The Committee has also desired that in the Ninth Five Year Plan, the Planning Commission should give full support to Kaiga III and IV, to the Koodankulam plant as also to the prototype fast breeder reactor which will be based on the achievement that we have already made, and in Kamini prototype reactor that we have produced. So, priority in the Plans will be given to the nuclear power sector. But in addition, the policies that I have stated are there.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : I want to know whether the Department of Atomic Energy has caused or made wasteful expenses in procuring costly equipment worth about Rs. 3,000 crore, of which major portion is likely to be rejected, either due to lack of timely use or due to its non-performing capacity.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Sir, the answer to that is 'no'. But we would want that the civil construction works at the Tarapur Plant are done at the earliest possible so that the imported equipment can be put to use.

SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the reply the hon. Minister has stated that the Government is open to specific offers and will decide its response on a case-by-case basis. I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister specifically as to what exactly does he mean to say by the words 'on a case-by-case basis'. Is it not a total departure from the policy of the Government where the Government has said that to set up a nuclear power plant in the country, the policy of the Government is to go it alone ? So, I would like to know whether the Government of India is thinking to go it alone or to have any contact with any foreign power. This has to be specifically answered by the Minister.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Sir, I am not sure what the hon. Member means by 'going it alone' because the existing policy also provides that and since 1987 nuclear power plants are being constructed and operated by a Corporation. The existing policy also provides for a 51 per cent ownership by the Government. In fact, there have

been recommendations from State Governments to the effect that they would like to participate in the equity of nuclear power plants. We have, as is well-known, early last year, had a Forum for involving the Indian private sector in the general development of the nuclear power sector and there also a number of companies have made proposals requesting for participation on the electrical and turbines side and so on, leaving aside the generator.

SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Sir, I am not talking about the private parties in our country. I am talking about the foreign parties. Does the Government have any contact with foreign agencies who have agreed to set up nuclear power plants in the country and if so, who are they ? Is there any Japanese concern in this regard ?

MR. SPEAKER : I think he has understood the question.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Sir, I am trying to explain to the hon. Member . . . (Interruptions)

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the nuclear power plants are concerned the previous Government had entered into an understanding with the Russian Government in respect of Koodankulam Nuclear Power Plant. The capacity of this plant is 2,000 MW. This plant will not only be partially funded by them, but the technical know-how and the plant are also going to be provided by them on loan basis and the repayment will start after 12 years. The previous Government had entered into this understanding with the Russian Government and they have been insisting that the old agreement should be honoured. This matter is before the Cabinet and a decision is yet to be taken. This is for the kind information of the hon. Member and the House.

As far as the other issue is concerned, we have not made any deviation with regard to the nuclear power plants and 100 per cent equity is a general term. I have made this point very clear. If any specific proposal comes, what are their terms and conditions, whether it is going to pose any problem on the nation's security, all these things will be examined on a case-by-case basis. Under the Act itself 51 per cent equity is allowed, but whether it is foreign equity or domestic equity is not the issue which is being discussed now. A company came to me and said : "You have allowed 100 per cent equity in the power sector. So, are you going to give the same concession to the nuclear power plants also ?"

I said that you first of all come with your proposals then we will examine. This is all what I said. There is no question of any commitment and no MoU or anything has been signed. It is only a general discussion. I said : You submit the proposal and then the matter will be examined by the Government of India. This is all that I said.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : The Prime Minister was good enough to refer to Russia and some kind of arrangement that was made with Russia by the last Government. But Russia does not have a good record as far as nuclear power plants are concerned. The memory of Chernobyl is still very fresh in our minds. But apart from that, has there been a good response to this ? What are the countries that have shown interest in this and when you have given them 100 per cent ownership, will there be a free repatriation of their investment from this country ?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Sir, as the Prime Minister has clarified, there are only proposals at a very preliminary stage . . .(Interruptions) There are suggestions . . .(Interruptions).

SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Sir, what the Prime Minister has narrated and what he is explaining, there is a difference in it.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, it is a very serious matter.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Sir, it makes the whole question now different.

MR. SPEAKER : Would the Prime Minister like to answer this question ?

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Sir, as I have already made clear, there is no such proposal before me.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : But he is saying something about the preliminary suggestions. He said that there are preliminary proposals.

MR. SPEAKER : The Prime Minister has referred to one specific proposal. I think, he said that there is only one.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Sir, I agree but the Minister says, 'there are many'.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : I am particular about . . .(Interruptions).

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I understand what you said in Japan.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Some Japanese investors come to me. They raised this question. They said that you have allowed 100 per cent equity so far as the power sector is concerned. They asked, "Are you going to extend the same benefit ?" I said that I cannot say right now. I said that you submit the proposals about what your conditions are, what your project technology is and about all other issues. Unless it is submitted to the Government of India and the concerned officers examine it, I cannot say anything right now.

MR. SPEAKER : I think it is all right. Dr. Joshi, I suppose you have already put your question.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : No, I have not. I have to put my question.

MR. SPEAKER : I know you are a nuclear scientist.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Sir, I rarely ask questions.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir. Hon'ble Prime Minister is not listening. He is making a different point altogether.

It has been stated in this reply.

[English]

"While Government of India have not invited any offers in the nuclear power sector".

[Translation]

I can read a lot between the lines. Throughout the world and especially in Europe and U.S.A. the emphasis is on closing down rather than the installing nuclear power plants. Secondly the technology of closed down power stations and technology of those power stations which have not been installed is kept for sale in the world market at very low rates. I would like to know from the Prime Minister as to whether we made statement after his return from Davos. Whether the Prime Minister has received any such proposals that the technology of closed down power stations and that of not yet installed power stations of Europe and U.S.A. is proposed to be sold to India and whether the Prime Minister has replied to them that in case they are prepared to make cent-percent capital investment, their proposals can be considered on a case to case basis.

MR. SPEAKER : He has probably given a reply to this point.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : No, Sir.

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Sir, after I returned from Davos, there is no specific offer so far as the setting up of nuclear power plant is concerned. Nobody has come to me.

No Specific offer has come before the Union Government. There is no such deviation on the policy decision.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : What the Prime Minister said is very grave. It is definitely a deviation

from the existing policy. It is one thing to take loan from Russia and it is another thing to take technological expertise and equipment from somebody. But to allow a hundred per cent owned nuclear power plant by a foreign company is an entirely different matter. It is a policy deviation. What the Prime Minister said was that he would consider proposals for a hundred per cent owned power plants, if other terms and conditions are okay. We all know that all the Western powers would insist on India signing the NPT. I would like to know whether the Government is reconsidering that also. I mean, it is a very major policy deviation if the Prime Minister will consider a hundred per cent owned nuclear power plant in this country. Right now, 49 per cent equity is allowed.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Sir, earlier, the French had come forward to put up a nuclear power plant. After this NPT was signed, they have gone back. The Government of India has not insisted on anything, and that is where we stand today. What the Japanese investors requested me was : "As you going to consider about allowing the nuclear power plants because in hydral power you have given a hundred per cent equity ?" I said that they should submit their proposals and that I cannot talk anything at that stage. For two plants of 1,000 MW capacity each, the Russian people have come forward with proposals of loan, technology and everything.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Loan is a different thing. Are they going to own the plant ?

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Please hear me. That stage is not before me. Suppose, they come forward with the same terms, can I accept them ? I would like to know about your reaction to this.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Are you going to allow a hundred per cent owned nuclear power plant in India ? That is the issue now.

MR. SPEAKER : The answer has been given. He said that it has not been decided. No decision has been taken on that.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : How can he consider that ?

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : How can he consider such proposals ?

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Without knowing what kind of proposals are going to be submitted, if at all they are interested, what can I say now ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Joshi. I have to give preference to a nuclear scientist.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Then, you should have given me the first chance. Now, according to the

present state of affairs, it is not possible to consider any hundred per cent owned plant in this country.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : We have to amend the Act.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Please bear with me.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : I am only drawing your attention to the fact that unless we amend Act, we cannot do it.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Now, you are saying that. There are very serious questions involved in this.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : We have not taken any decision to allow a hundred per cent equity, so far as the nuclear power plant is concerned. If such a thing is going to be there, unless the House agrees, I cannot take any decision.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : There are two or three very important aspects of this matter to which I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Prime Minister. When you allow any foreign technology or foreign plant in this country, what will be the situation of your own scientists in that ? You are allowing a hundred per cent owned plant here. I would like to know who will control it, who will supervise it, what will be the control of the Government of India on all those plants and whether they will be subjected only to the international agencies' supervision. These are various aspects of it on which this nation is worried about. We would also like to know whether it is a matter of subverting and bypassing our opposition to CTBT. Once you have a hundred per cent owned plant by an outsider, what is your control on it ? Nothing. They can stop and say that they would not give you this even for experimental purposes. The waste product will not be there. This is a very serious question, and I agree with Shri George Farnandes that there is now a design in the Western world to thrust all the junk technology, particularly in the nuclear field, on developing countries. This is a very serious question and we have to be careful about it for the environmental security and for the nation's atomic security. Once the foreign scientists come on this soil and they operate the plant, how do you prevent them from knowing our atomic secrets ?

So great problems are involved in this question. It is not a very simple question and I believe that the Prime Minister did not have this information when he interacted with the Japanese newspapermen that under the present law, the Government of India will not succeed.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : I agree. When you allow on loan basis, two nuclear power plants . . . *(Interruptions)*. We have to consider even technology, even finance and even conception. . . . *(Interruptions)*.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I will come to another question. Which technology India needs now in the field of nuclear power plant ?

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : All these things have to be examined from the point of view of the present situation in our country.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : We are fully conversant with the present technology in the world.

MR. SPEAKER : Please hear the Prime Minister.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Which type of technology India needs today ?

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : This question should be allowed. It is a very important matter. India's security is involved.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : It is a very important question . . .(Interruptions).

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Are you going to allow a full-fledged discussion on this ? Please allow Half-an-Hour discussion on this ?

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you not listen to the hon. Minister ?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : As far as the very detailed and correct questions that Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi and Shri George Fernandes have raised are concerned, there can be no question of India going back on any one of its present legal structures, in other words, environmental conditions. . .(Interruptions). First let me explain. He has asked a very specific question. On the whole question of nuclear safeguards, we accept only safeguards at the level of the plant. We do not accept general safeguards, fullscope safeguards. As the Prime Minister has explained, we will be having Russian help in some plants. The law does provide for 49 per cent of non-governmental investment. That does not mean that safety regulations, environmental control and our treaty obligations under CTBT at all can be compromised in any way. As the hon. Member Shri George Fernandes is saying, it is true that in those countries which have very high level of energy availability and where there is surplus energy capacity. . .(Interruptions) Please let me finish. It is a very specific question . . .(Interruptions) Hon. Member, Shri George Fernandes, let me explain.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : You are trying to mislead the House.

There can be no question of my misleading the House.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : You have not even let me finish my sentence. Factually, in countries like China,

and in a number of newly industrialised countries, nuclear power is expanding. That is where there are large markets. There can be no question of India accepting outmoded technologies in the nuclear sector. For example, hon. Member Shri G.G. Swell asked the question of Russian Chernobyl. The technology that we are importing from Russia is a very different type of technology. It is a VVER technology which they are exporting to other countries, including China. Let there be complete clarity on this. There can be no question of importing third rate technologies. There can be no question of any of India's laws being changed. As far as the CTBT is concerned, there can be no compromise. It is the other way round. There are people in other countries who are interested in India's nuclear sector. It is in a sense their confidence in our nuclear sector. This does not compromise our position on CTBT at all. We have to be clear about what we want . . .(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : I think it is enough. Please do not complicate the matter any more.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I have given full clarification.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Please allow Half-an-Hour discussion on this. It is a very important matter.

MR. SPEAKER : You can certainly give a notice. I can see it. You can always give a notice.

Crude Oil Production

*164. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether ONGC has revised the Government approved crude oil production target of 34.5 million tonne to 30.5 million tonne for 1996-97;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the steps taken to achieve the revised target by ONGC ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) ONGC revised its projections of crude oil production from the level of 32.80 MMT to 31.092 MMT for the year 1996-97 due to the following reasons :-

(i) Reduction in anticipated production from the major fields of BRBC especially Bombay High and Neelam, due to unexpected reservoir behaviour, not in conformity with earlier predictions.